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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A8a

COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Political Information: Public Opinion in North Korea

DATE 19 June 1947

PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. The main topic of conversation in North Korea is food. The people believe that they are much worse off as far as food is concerned than the people in South Korea, and much discussion concerns the amount of food removed by the Soviets and the hope that no more food will be taken from Korea.
2. Another leading topic of conversation is the union of North and South Korea. Most of the people hope for a union in the near future, but the great majority of them are indifferent as to whether the union shall take place under a Communist or non-Communist type of government. Student groups appear to be dividing about 50:50 in their support of a Communist-type government.
3. The establishment of an independent Korea is also a much-discussed subject. Hope for the withdrawal of Soviet troops is frequently expressed, and there are many opinions and rumors concerning this withdrawal. Those people living in areas where there are comparatively few Soviet troops believe the Soviets will withdraw soon; those living on the east coast where large numbers of Soviet troops are concentrated are pessimistic regarding the prospects of a Soviet withdrawal and do not believe it will take place for some time, if at all.
4. Almost every family in North Korea is being directly or indirectly affected by the military training program of the Korean Communist government. Much discussion is concerned with the use to which the troops now being trained will be put. Speculation entertains the possibility of a civil war in the near future.
5. Most people in North Korea believe that the Soviets now have the atomic bomb.

Document No. 3

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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Next Review Date: 2008

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